

**Ministry of Community
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August 30, 2016

Mr. Les Gamble
Chair of the Board
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola, Ontario
P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Gamble:

I am writing to inform you that my ministry is moving forward with a review of the District Social Services Board (DSSAB) Act.

As you know, the DSSAB Act, implemented in 1998, provides the governance and accountability framework for the delivery of social services in Northern Ontario. The Act is intended to lay out a fair and equitable framework across diverse populations, geographic areas and municipal organizational structures. In recent years, the province has heard concerns from DSSABs and individual member areas around governance issues, including but not limited to levy apportionment and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Given the range of concerns I have heard regarding the existing Act and its provisions, I recognize the importance of undertaking a thoughtful review of the Act rather than attempting to address issues in isolation at the local level.

I have asked ministry representatives to work with DSSABs to explore options for reviewing the DSSAB Act, in particular Board governance and accountability.

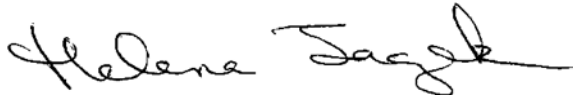
In addition, I am also interested in exploring potential shorter-term improvements to support delivery flexibility.

In order to move this work forward, I am requesting DSSABs' advice on the most appropriate forum to engage with the ministry, for example, collectively through the Northern Ontario Social Services Deliverer's Association or at the individual DSSAB level. Please forward your thoughts on approach to Erin Hannah, Interim Assistant Deputy Minister at erin.hannah@ontario.ca.

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Please share this correspondence with your Board. I encourage Boards to continue to work together within the existing legislative framework to address issues, pending the outcome of the review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helena Jaczek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Helena" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jaczek".

Dr. Helena Jaczek
Minister

c: Janet Menard, Deputy Minister
Erin Hannah, Assistant Deputy Minister
Richard Steele, Assistant Deputy Minister
Fern Dominelli, CAO, MSDSB
Iain Angus, Chair, NOSDA
Deputy Mayor Lynn Dollin, President, AMO
Mayor Alan Spacek, President, FONOM
Mayor David Canfield, President, NOMA